

A New Cowrie Species from the Philippines

BY

CRAWFORD N. CATE

12719 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90049

AND

FRANZ ALFRED SCHILDER

University of Halle, German Democratic Republic

(Plate 54)

DURING AUGUST 1967, Mr. Fernando G. Dayrit, University of the Philippines Village, Diliman, Rizal, Philippines, received a curious small cowrie which had been collected alive off Laminusa Island, Siasi Group, in the south-western Philippines (see CATE, 1966; map, p. 237). The small, slender shell superficially recalls *Notadusta rabaulensis* SCHILDER, 1964, but some of its shell characters, especially the reduced fossula and the dorsal blotch, prove it to be related to *Erronea pallida* (GRAY, 1824) and more particularly to its south-eastern race *E. p. insulicola* SCHILDER & SCHILDER, 1938. The differences, however, are so striking that we think the shell belongs to a distinct species that is new to science; we propose to call it:

Erronea stohleri CATE & SCHILDER, spec. nov.

Holotype: The unique holotype of *Erronea stohleri* is 15.1 mm long, 8.2 mm broad, and 6.9 mm high, and shows 18 labial and 17 columellar teeth (the two terminal ridges excluded, but a small intercalated columellar tooth included); therefore the characters, as tabulated by M. SCHILDER (1967, p. 373) read for this species as follows: 15/54, 18:17, ps.

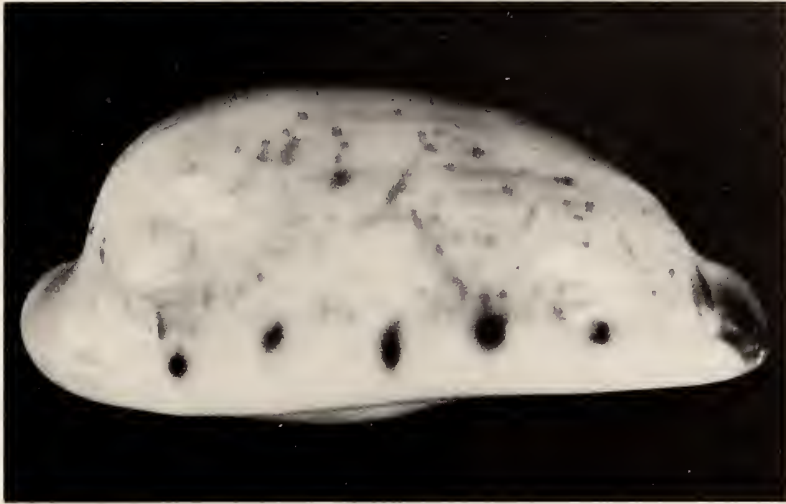
The adult shell is elongate pyriform, only slightly callos, with the spire projecting from a shallow umbilicus; the equally narrow right margin is separated by a rather indistinct dorsal rim, the left margin is regularly convex; the terminal impressions are distinct in front, but obsolete behind; the base is rather flattened, impressed in front, inner lip slightly convex behind with its posterior beak acuminate and bent to the left; the aperture is narrow, distinctly widened in front and distinctly bent behind; the labial teeth are short even in the declivous anterior ex-

tremity; the terminal tooth is composed of 2 long, slender convergent ridges the anterior of which borders the outlet; it is well separated from the columellar teeth, the anterior of which are much coarser than the short central ones and the rather oblique posterior ones (the last tooth lies on the base of the posterior beak the inner margin of which is smooth); the fossula is much reduced, as the three strong anterior columellar teeth project towards the aperture and cross the vertical plane plate as far as its inner margin, forming three continuous vertical ribs without any swelling interiorly; the columella shows no longitudinal sulcus, it is constricted in front and crossed here by vertical ribs similar to those of the fossular plate, but ventricose behind with traces of interior denticles terminating the obsolete transversal ribs.

Dorsum grey, without transversal zones, irregularly freckled with often confusely confluent fulvous-brown specks, and adorned with a large square fulvous-brown central blotch; margins and base whitish; outer margin with six small chestnut spots which do not extend to the base, left margin with four obsolete spots in front only; extremities suffused with pale greyish fulvous, anterior extremity with two blackish brown spots which are restricted to the dorsal area, posterior extremity practically unspotted; teeth white without any traces of colored striae; spire pale fulvous.

Type Locality: The animal was collected alive in approximately two fathoms of water off Laminusa Island.

Type Repository: The holotype is deposited in the California Academy of Sciences Geology Department Type collection, where it bears the number 13101. The holotype is figured on Plate 54.



Erronea stohleri CATE & SCHILDER
Lateral, dorsal and ventral views of the holotype